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and readers who desire a clear-cut presentation of the essentials of Anglo-American Isthmian relations must continue to use some of the excellent manuals listed in Miss Williams's bibliography.

EUGENE C. BARKER.

*Per Un Irredentismo In Fatto Di Scienze Giuridiche.* By Giulio Diena  
Torino: 1916. Societa Tipografico-Editrice Nazionale.

This slender pamphlet of some twenty pages by Professor Diena has as its theme "National independence in the legal sciences," more specifically, of course, independence of Teutonic theories and tendencies. Evidently suggested as it is by the reaction which the European War has produced in the Allied countries against the tyranny of German influences, we look with trepidation for a somewhat partisan development of the theme. Happily these fears are not justified; there is little in the article that could not be safely and usefully generalized and applied to other subjects far from Latin law or German science.

If we may accept the author's statements (and a very limited acquaintance with the theoretical department of Italian legal literature goes to support them), the fashion of the day has led the latest generation of the younger writers into a somewhat slavish adoption of the ideas and mannerisms of the extreme German Schools. These ideas are characterized by the ruthless application of logic to premises founded on mere assumption or abstractions, and by the tendency to develop the subject along abstract lines and without reference to the facts of life. The mannerisms are the mannerisms of the German language so far as they can be transferred to the Italian by copious quotation, barbarous translation and unmerciful interjection of foreign terms.

On the second count it may be said that the crimes committed under it are due in great part to a cheap parade of learning, to pedantry and to mere sloth. The German originals are certainly not to blame, and probably those who have been really gripped by the German ideas would be found to be the least guilty in this particular. It would seem that Italian jurisprudence has been suffering from a bad attack of a disease which is not unknown in other countries or other departments of science and of art. A new idea gains weight with a certain class of mind from its very vagueness, from its being only half understood. The very fact that it has to be sought and found in a foreign and unfamiliar language may supply this vagueness, which is all that is wanted to convert it into a religion. The natural history of most fads in art or pseudo-

science begins with the genius with defective power of expression, passes on to the enthusiasts with imperfect understanding and from them to the crowd of the faddists and the charlatans.

However, in this particular case, it may well be doubted how far the genius appears in it at all. Professor Diena is not at all disposed to question the value of German jurisprudence. He does question very positively the manner in which it has been applied and the attempt to take it as a universal measure, and he supports his thesis by citations from German authorities. We might have wished that he had left Nietzsche and his virulent criticism of his fellow countrymen out of the matter.

The countries of the Common Law do not seem to be in any particular danger from the tendencies that the author deplors. We could find there ample illustration of the same kind of over enthusiastic acceptance of foreign theories, some of them (in anthropology and in education, for example) native to Professor Diena's own country. However, it is fair to say that coming from that quarter they are at least in no great danger of barbarizing our language. Perhaps; the invasion of the Italian tongue by German sounds and idioms is the cruelest result of the condition that is described and the one that calls most loudly for the counter attack which is launched against it in the article reviewed.

JAMES BARCLAY.

*l'Organisme des états-tampons gardiens de la paix. Essai d'une proposition de paix.* By M. D. Horowitz. *La Haye*: Martinus Nijhoff. 1915. pp. 120.

This book may be an exegesis of the impossible, but it has certain distinctive qualities. The treatment is fresh, thoroughly well organized, and it defends a point of view which we have not seen presented heretofore. In brief, the author proposes the disarmament of the large Powers and the armament of the small buffer states with the advice and co-operation of the large Powers of Europe. The brochure was written in Antwerp, September last. Every page rings with the sincerity of one close to the war. Summarizing the conditions which provoked the present war, the author concludes that the one great cause was a developing international mistrust (*méfiance internationale*). Since this mistrust is the direct cause of war, the remedy must therefore lie in overcoming this mistrust. Disarmament, as ordinarily understood, offers no hopeful